

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 03249 150707Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 A-01 PA-01 OPR-02 SSO-00

NSCE-00 /030 W

-----114767 150712Z /17

O R 141741Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7158

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3249

DEPT FOR AF/W; USIA FOR IOP/G

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT - PRESS BRIEFING MATERIAL

REF: STATE 61147, LAGOS 3185

1. FOLLOWING ARE HISTORICAL AND BACKGROUND SKETCHES ON STES REQUESTED REFTEL.

2. STATE HOUSE (LAGOS). LOCATED ON THE MARINA, LAGOS ISLAND, THIS WAS THE GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE IN COLONIAL DAYS. AFTER NIGERIA BECAME INDEPENDENT IN 1960, IT BECAME THE PRESIDENT'S RESIDENCE AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY LIVED IN BY MAJOR GENERAL IRONSI AFTER THE FIRST MILITARY COUP IN 1966. WHEN GENERAL GOWEN BECAME HEAD OF STATE IN 1966, HE DECIDED TO LIVE IN DODAN BARRACKS ON IKOYI ISLAND. SINCE THAT TIME, THE STATE HOUSE HAS BEEN USED AS THE GUEST RESIDENCE FOR VISITING HEADS OF STATE AND STATE PARTIES. THE CIVILIAN PRESIDENT TO BE ELECTED IN OOOBER 1979 WILL RESIDE THERE.

3. DODAN BARRACKS (LAGOS). DODAN BARRACAU IS THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF THE HEAD OF STATE AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA. FORMERLY, PJODAN BARRACKDSWAS ONE OF THE SEVERAL REGULAR ARMY BARRACKS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 03249 150707Z

COUNTRY. IT WAS NAMED AFTER "DODO," A YORUBA FRUIT TREE PARTICULAR TO THAT AREA. AFTER THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN JULY 1966, DODAN BARRACKS ACQUIRED A NEW HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE WHEN YAKUBU GYLON, THEN HEAD OF STATE, DECIDED TO MAKE IT HIS OFFICIAL RESIDENCE. SINCE THEN IT HAS BECOME A "DE-FACTO" STATE HQ. THE MINISTERIAL BUILDINGS THAT FLANKED THE FORMER BARRACKS WERE CONVERTED INTO RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS FOR THE MILITARY GUARDS. THE ACCESS ROADS

THAT RAN BETWEEN THE CONVERTED MINISTERIAL BUILDINGS AND OLD DODAN BARRACKS WERE BLOCKED TO PROVIDE BETTER SECURITY AND PRIVACY.

4. NATIONAL THEATRE (LAGOS). CONSTRUCTED ON LAND RECLAIMED FROM SWAMPS ALONG ONE OF THE LAGOS ISLAND LAGOONS, THIS NEW, ULTRA-MODERN, \$40 MILLION THEATRE IS THE LARGEST AND MOST BEAUTIFUL OF ITS KIND ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT. THE 31 METERS HIGH BUILDING, PATTERNEK AFTER THE IRLAND OF CULTURE AND SPORTS IN VERRA, BULGARIA

,  
COVERS SOME 23,000 SQUARE METERS OF GROUND. IT WAS BUILT BY A TEAM OF BULGARIAN ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS, WITH THE AID OF NIGERIAN SUBCONTRACTORS AND LABORERS. THE THEATRE COMPLEX COM-PRISES A THEATRE HALL WITH SEATING CAPACITY FOR SLIGHTLY OVER 5,000 PERSONS; A CONFERENCE HALL (1,600 SEATS); TWO LARGE EXHIBITION HALLS AND TWO CINEMA HALLS (800 SEATS EACH). THE CENTRALLY-AIR-CONDITIONED STRUCTURE ALSO ACCOMMODATES INTERPRETERS' BOOTHS EQUIPPED FOR SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION INTO SIX MAJOR LANGUAGES); A CLOSED-CIRCUIT TV SYSTEM; RADIO, TV AND JOURNALISTS' BOOTHS; VIP ROOMS AND GARAGE; 80 OFFICES; PROJECTION BOOTHS; FOUR SNACK BARS; AND A KITCHEN EQUIPPED TO SERVICE 2,000 PERSONS AT A TIME. THE THEATRE IS ALSO EQUIPPED WITH ITS OWN HIGH-POWERED GENERATOR.

5. EMIR'S PALACE (KANO). THE PALACE WAS FIRST BUILT BY THE SARKIN KANO MUHAMMADU RUMFA ABOUT 500 YEARS AGO; THE RENOVATION OF THE PALACE WAS CARRIED OUT BY IBRAHIM DABO WHO BUILT AN INTERNAL APARTMENT CALLED SORON MALAM ABOUT 150 YEARS AGO. SORON MALAM IS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAGOS 03249 150707Z

THE FIRST PLACE THAT THE EMIR ENTERS AFTER BEING ENTHRONED. ABDULAH I, SON OF IBRAHIM DABO, BUILT ANOTHER APARTMENT CALLED SORON BAKI AND A RECEPTION ROOM CALLED SORON GIWA ABOUT 110 YEARS AGO. MUHAMMADU BELLO, SON OF ABDULLAHI THE FIRST, BUILT ANOTHER RECEPTION ROOM CALLED SORON BELLO. THE DESIGN OF THE PALACE WAS ENTIRELY CHANGED AND RENOVATED BY ABDULLAHI BAYERO, THE GRANDSON OF ABDULLAHI THE FIRST IN 1925. HE BUILT THE PRESENT RECEPTION ROOM WHERE EMIRS RECEIVE VISITORS TO THE PALACE. HE ALSO BUILT THE PRESENT MODERN ENTRANCE TO THE PALACE. THE PALACE COVERS AN AREA OF ABOUT 34 ACRES AND CONSISTS OF MANY FAMILY HOUSES FOR THE EMIR'S WIVES, HIS BODY GUARDS, AS WELL AS STABLES FOR ABOUT 500 HORSES.

6. KADAWA IRRIGATION SCHEME (KANO). THE KADAWA IRRIGATION SCHEME WAS BEGUN IN 1965 WHEN THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AID) EMBARKED UPON FEASIBILITY STUDIES OF THE KANO RIVER BASIN. AS A RESULT OF THESE STUDIES, THE KANO RIVER IRRIGATION PROJECT WAS CONCEIVED BY THE KANO STATE GOVERNMENT. A PILOT FARM PROJECT WAS ALSO ESTABLISHED TO DETERMINE THE VIABILITY OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHOLE SCHEME AND TO ALLOT MORE LAND TO THE LOCAL INHABITANTS FOR CULTIVATION. THE SUCCESS OF THE PROJECT FURTHER ENCOURAGED THE KANO STATE GOVERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE ALSO THE DEVE-

LOPMENT OF THE TIGA RAPIDS IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE KADAWA IRRIGATION CAPACITY. CONSEQUENTLY, THE TIGA DAM WAS BUILT, AND THE TIGA IRRIGATION SYSTEM TO KADAWA WAS IMPLEMENTED. WHAT INITIALLY STARTED AS A STATE PROJECT BECAME A FEDERAL ONE IN JUNE 1976 WHEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TOOK OVER THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNTRY'S

RIVER BASINS' DEVELOPMENT. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SUBSEQUENTLY ESTABLISHED 10 RIVER BASINS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING THE KANO RIVER BASIN IRRIGATION SCHEME OF WHICH KADAWA IS AN INTEGRAL PHASE.

7. FEDERAL PALACE HOTEL. WE ARE STILL TRYING TO GET INFORMATION ON THIS HOTEL AND WILL TRANSMIT IT ASAP. DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.

EASUM  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LAGOS 03249 150707Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978LAGOS03249  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780114-0957  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** LAGOS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780372/aaaaciqx.tel  
**Line Count:** 136  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** c7ebf5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 61147, 78 LAGOS 3185  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3342648  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESIDENTIAL VISIT - PRESS BRIEFING MATERIAL  
**TAGS:** OVIP, (CARTER, JIMMY)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/c7ebf5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014